

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 3, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 22, 29, 31-41 and 44-49 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 11, 21 and 29 are in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 21, 22, 29, 31, 32, 35-37, 39-41 and 44 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 45-49 have been added to assure Applicants of a full measure of protection. Claims 42 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 21, 22, 29, 31-41 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patents 6,460,030 B1 (Ludtke) and 6,260,063 B1 (Ludtke et al.), taken in combination.

To begin with, it is not deemed necessary to discuss again the general nature of the invention, but Applicants nonetheless wish to emphasize that one purpose of the aspects of the invention to which the respective independent claims are directed is to enable the user of a network to tell, easily, which of several network devices (say, which of several printers) are in particular physical locations, e.g., to confirm that a given printer is near where the user is. As is described in the specification, more-sophisticated uses are also provided, such as permitting the user to determine location of devices not only of a given type, but that are currently in a particular status. For example, the user can, using certain embodiments of the invention, identify which printer, among several on the network, is currently operative (is not jammed and has not run out of paper or toner, for example) and is close to where the user is. These features are made possible through the

use of information relating to the physical location of each device. To emphasize still further that the location in question is a “location” in the everyday sense of that word rather than a track on a CD, or a network address, the claim language has been changed to refer to a “geographical location”.

Applicants strongly believe that this feature, of storing position information relating to the geographical location of each device, has been clearly recited in the claims, and that the Examiner has not produced prior art that teaches or even suggests it. Nonetheless, in an effort to make even clearer what Applicants are claiming, the recitation in question has been modified in each independent claim, so that the position information is now, more specifically, recited as “position information indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed”, rather than simply a “position” of the device. Moreover, each independent claim also recites that there is stored information that indicates “a network address of said device”. Accordingly, it is believed ever clearer that for each device there is stored information identifying the device’s network address, *and* information indicating the geographical location of the device. The network address information is typically a series of numbers, which indicates what other element(s) of the network system the device is connected to. The information indicating the geographical location of the device, in contrast, does not provide any information about what else the device is connected to, but indicates the cubicle, room, floor, building, city and/or country, etc., where the device is installed. (It should be noted that the term “geographical” is being used broadly enough to encompass all of these levels of detail, and does not imply that only an identification of a particular region of a country, or of a particular political jurisdiction, is being provided.)

More specifically, independent Claim 1 is directed to a network system comprising a server, a client, and a device. The server comprises a first storage unit, adapted to store position information “indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed” and a network address of the device, and a first transmission unit, adapted to transmit the position information and the network address to the client via a network. The device comprises a second storage unit, adapted to store icon data indicating an icon for visually representing the device, and a control unit, adapted to transmit the icon data to the client via the network. The client comprises a first reception unit, adapted to receive the position information and the network address transmitted by the first transmission unit via the network, a second transmission unit, adapted to transmit a request to the device based on the network address so as to acquire the icon data stored in the second storage unit, a second reception unit, adapted to receive the icon data, and a display unit, adapted to display the geographical location in which the device is installed, indicated by the position information received by the first reception unit, and to display the icon indicated by the icon data, received by the second reception unit.

At the very least, Applicants strongly believe that nothing in the art of record even hints at storage means storing “position information indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed and a network address” of the device, as recited in Claim 1.

Ludtke '030 is concerned with searching data stored in the device. That is, as stated at col. 7, lines 37 and 38, the stored data may for example be data representing music contained in a track of a compact disk. In *Ludtke '030*, the only position that appears to be searched for is the address for accessing the stored data. Using the *Ludtke*

'030 apparatus, it is possible to specify the music data in a compact disk by using that information. Applicants submit, however, that nothing in *Ludtke '030* would enable the user to know the *geographical location* of the compact disk itself, as would be necessary for that patent to meet the terms of Claim 1. More specifically, the user cannot know where (or even whether) the compact disk is on the floor where the user currently is, or whether or not the compact disk is nearby, and the like. In other words, even if *Ludtke '030* is deemed to relate to information about a "position", that "position" is not equivalent to "position information indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed", as recited in Claim 1.

Moreover, the stored data in the *Ludtke '030* system is, for example, data representing music contained in a particular track of a compact disk, and is not data for visually representing a device. Accordingly, in that system, it is impossible for the user to obtain visual confirmation (on a display) about the compact disk, based on the stored data. That is, the stored data in the *Ludtke '030* system is not equivalent to "icon data indicating an icon for visually representing said device", as recited in Claim 1.

For all these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over *Ludtke '030*, taken alone.

Ludtke '063 also is not seen to disclose "position information indicating a geographical location in which said device is installed", or "icon data indicating an icon for visually representing said device", as recited in Claim 1. Even if *Ludtke '063* is deemed to show all that it is cited for, and even assuming it is permissible to make the proposed combination of that patent with *Ludtke '030*, the result would not meet the terms of Claim 1, which accordingly is believed to be allowable over both patents.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to an information processor for communicating with another information processor and a device via a network. The processor of Claim 7 comprises a first reception unit, adapted to receive from the other information processor, via the network, position information indicating a geographical location in which the device is installed and a network address of the device, and a transmission unit, adapted to transmit a request to the device based on the network address so as to acquire icon data from the device, the icon data indicating an icon for visually representing the device. The processor of Claim 7 also comprises a second reception unit, adapted to receive the icon data from the device via the network, and a display unit, adapted to display the physical location in which the device is installed indicated by the position information, and to display the icon indicated by the icon data.

Accordingly, Claim 7 also is deemed allowable over *Ludtke '030* and *Ludtke '063*, taken separately or in any permissible combination (if any), for at least the reasons advanced above with regard to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 11 is directed to a device for processing a job requested via a network. That device comprises a first storage unit, adapted to store position information indicating a geographical location in which the device is installed, and a second storage unit, adapted to store a plurality of icon data representing different statuses of the device. Also provided in the device are a judgment unit, adapted to judge a status of the device, a selection unit, adapted to select icon data representing the status judged by the judgment unit from among the plurality of icon data stored in the second storage unit, and a control unit, adapted to transmit the selected icon data via the network.

For the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, *Ludtke '030* and *Ludtke '063*, considered either separately or in any permissible combination (if any), also cannot meet the terms of Claim 11.

The other independent claims are each a method or a computer memory medium claim corresponding to one or the other of apparatus Claims 1 and 11, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with the latter two claims.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

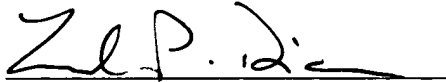
For example, newly added Claims 45-49 each further specify that the position information identifying the geographical location of the device, specifies at least one of “(a) information defining which of plural companies’ facility said device is in, (b) information defining which of plural cities said device is in, (c) information defining which of plural building said device is in, (d) information defining which of plural floors of a building said device is on, and (e) information defining which of plural locations on a floor said device is in”. Applicants submit that nothing has been found, or pointed out, in any of the art of record that would even hint at such information being stored, together with information identifying a network address of a device, as recited in each of these claims.

Moreover, since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. P. Diana', written over a horizontal line.

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